

Teen Driving Task Force

Minutes of June 18, 2012 – 10:00 AM Meeting

RedRossa Italian Grille, 808 West Sioux Ave, Pierre, South Dakota

Minutes submitted by: Lee Axdahl

Task Force Members Present: Bob Clark, Major Randy Hartley, Cindy Gerber, Nancy Allard, Mark Swendsen, SFPD Captain Steve Haney, John Foster, Task Force Vice-Chairperson Dr. Susan Randall.

Task Force Members Excused: Representative Peggy Gibson, Task Force Chairperson Senator Craig Tieszen, Senator Todd Schlekeway (1)

Task Force Members Absent: Representative Nick Moser, Sgt. Kenneth Franks

Support Staff Present: Lee Axdahl

DPS Staff Present: Secretary Trevor Jones, Cindy Jungman, Terry Woster

Others Present: Please see attachment to these minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Task Force was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Susan Randall at 10:50 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was skipped as staff had done this prior to the start of the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR 03/20/12 MEETING

Dr. Randall asked if anyone present had concerns with the March 20, 2012, minutes as provided by staff. Seeing that nobody had an issue, Dr. Randall asked that the name Greg Boris be added to "Others present" and that the words "should be" on page two of the minutes (approximately half way down the page) with the sentence containing "...but Dr. Randall suggested an outside source should be..." be changed to "could be."

MOTION: There being no other changes and no objection to Dr. Randall's request, a motion was made to approve the minutes with the changes requested.

Motion: Mark Swendsen
Second: Steve Haney
Disposition: Unanimous Approval

Notes:

- (1) Senator Schlekeway called Lee Axdahl shortly before the meeting commenced to offer his reluctant resignation from this task force due to other personal and professional obligations.

4. DISCUSSION OF DRIVER EDUCATION ISSUE

DPS Secretary Trevor Jones was asked to address the task force regarding Driver Education in the state.

Secretary Jones stated that the Department of Public Safety is very much open to working on it and moving Driver Education forward in a logical progression.

Task Force discussion followed with Dr. Randall reminding the group that there are no licensed teachers, no standard curriculum, and no other consistent standards for testing. She further stated that schools need to be involved somehow and appreciated DPS's willingness to work on developing Driver Education. Bob Clark also pointed out the fact that there is no consistency in curriculum and suggested that someone needs to be the watchdog to know that "x" is taught. John Foster suggested adopting core curriculum standards rather than endorsing a particular course.

The group discussed and agreed that the Department of Education be invited to the next meeting for further information.

MOTION: Dr. Randall asked that the Task Force introduce a motion that put the group on record to recommend that the DPS Driver Education effort include the following items:

- A. Establish core curriculum standards using the ADTSEA model of instruction.
- B. Establish standardized testing methodology for students.
- C. Establish a statistical tracking methodology to create data linkages.
- D. Establish a standard training program for instructor licensing, recertification, and continuing education by reconsidering the re-establishment of the Driver's Education Association.

Motion: Bob Clark
Second: John Foster
Disposition: Unanimous Approval

5. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE BILLS

Deferred by task force consensus to follow testimony from South Dakota teens and public testimony.

6. TASK FORCE WORKING LUNCH

Deferred by task force consensus to follow testimony from South Dakota teens and public testimony.

7. TESTIMONY FROM SOUTH DAKOTA TEENS

- A. Ann Shoemaker of Rapid City Stevens presented information about her texting PSAs made in association with the Crash Course group.

- B. Kassie Willard of Belle Fourche discussed her distracted driving experience and her disappointment that her driving exam consisted of just a one-block drive.
- C. Molly McCaskell and Molly Spreen of Rapid City Stevens told the task force that there is a huge difference between 14 and 15 years of age and that moving the permit up one year is good. They also stated that they distract each other in the vehicle.
- D. Courtney Denett of Rapid City Stevens told the task force that even though students may not all agree on ages and permits, that the students needed to think of others more than themselves.
- E. Michaela Whitaker, a graduate of Rapid City Central, didn't want to bash driver education, but she and her friends believe it is boring. But, now that she is older, Michaela believes it should be a requirement. She expressed concern that some families don't have the money for driver education and also believes the recertification for teachers should be mandatory.

8. OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Darrell Shoemaker, parent of Ann, supported driver education efforts.
- B. Dr. Greg Boris, of South Dakota Voices for Children, suggested that more accurate information needs to be collected for distracted driving and that the state add a check box on the South Dakota Crash Report for cellular usage.
- C. Doug Abraham, of PCIAA, told the group that his people will support GDL and distracted driving efforts, although GDL will have some pushback from those having agricultural issues and personal freedom issues.
- D. Pam Thomas, of Rapid City's AYCE Community Team, believes 14 year-olds driving vehicles is too young and it is a real battle as a parent to discourage children from getting permits at that age.
- E. Liz Hamburg, from Partnership Rapid City, believes driver education in schools would be great.

6. BREAK FOR LUNCH

The task force took a short break to select sandwiches and a salad and then reconvened to discuss potential legislative items during its working lunch.

5. DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE BILLS

As the time for task force recommendations is winding down, Dr. Randall suggested that the group make suggestions for its recommendations to the legislature. Having the group go on record with certain recommendations would expedite the development of the final report.

Dr. Randall asked that the task force take a broad look at the draft legislative recommendations which Senator Craig Tieszen had drafted on behalf of the Task Force for discussion. Randall reminded the group that proposals need to be based on evidence. With that, the group discussed four pieces of draft legislation which have been labeled #863 (moving the operator license age to 17), #859 (only one unrelated minor passenger), #858 (moving instruction permit length to one year), and #860 (no electronic devices during permit periods).

Discussion on #858 focused on special hardships and an agricultural exemption. Captain Haney, however, wanted to focus on the safety of children and that is what the task force was established to do. Some discussion of dropping the instructional permit period from the proposed 365 days to 270 days if the student took a driver education course. Group consensus to move forward with this legislation with some additional wording to reflect the reduction so that there remains an incentive to take drivers education.

Discussion on #860 was overwhelmingly in favor of the bill with additional precision in the definitions section to exempt vehicle radios.

Discussion on #859 suggested that the word “adult” be added to page one, line nine. Dr. Randall referred the Task Force to testimony from the Safe and Sound Coalition regarding prevalence of teens driving youth to school and school activities. She noted that the South Dakota Voices for Children Youth Advisory Council expressed significant opposition to this provision. There was discussion about adding a parental advisement recommendation from the task force instead of a bill. Captain Haney reminded the Task Force that research clearly indicates limiting passengers during the restricted permit phase is correlated with reduced crashes. The group agreed that this recommendation should be further considered at the next meeting.

Discussion on #863 found the group agreeing that this is a tentative recommendation. Bob Clark suggested that statistical information would be necessary to support it.

9. TEEN MESSAGING AND OTHER NON-LEGISLATIVE REMEDIES

For these priorities, the task force recommended that:

- The Department of Public Safety investigate the addition of a cell phone check box on the South Dakota Crash Form.
- Explore the engagement of teens in social messaging and public awareness campaigns.

10. TIMELINE AND NEXT MEETING DISCUSSION

Dr. Randall suggested that the report to the legislature contain an ‘Executive Summary’ and a more detailed report containing four elements:

- A. Summary of research
- B. Summary of testimony made to task force
- C. Recommendations and Rationale
- D. Implementation steps

Lee Axdahl will check with LRC to determine the mechanics of submitting the report and inform the task force membership of the requirements.

Dr. Randall suggested that agenda items at the next meeting include the appearance of Department of Education official(s) regarding driver education, a review of the DRAFT legislative report, a response (if possible) from the Governor’s office on proposed legislation, and discussion of the Legislative Research Council procedures on task force reports.

The next meeting is tentatively set for September 10th at 10:30 AM.

MOTION: To adjourn.

Moved: Bob Clark
Second: Captain Haney
Disposition: Unanimous Approval